

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1077

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James Dickens for his great courage and resourcefulness.

WHEREAS, over much of its history, Tennessee has been known as the Volunteer State because it has been the home of so many valiant men and women who have responded with great courage and strength of character in times of trouble and adversity, whether in war or peace; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Tennessean is James Dickens, who, on February 8, 2008, acted with courage and resourcefulness to save the life of Eddie Lee Grayson, a mentally challenged young man trapped in a burning house; and

WHEREAS, on that fateful day, Mr. Dickens had just arrived at a four-way stop on his way to downtown Hartsville when he saw smoke and a gentleman, Barney Allison, Pastor of Hartsville Missionary Baptist Church, crossing the street in front of him and calling for help; and

WHEREAS, demonstrating a great desire to come to the rescue of his fellow citizens, Mr. Dickens took a deep breath as he and Bryan Pipes ran into the house and up the stairs where they saw Eddie Grayson lying on the floor crying; and

WHEREAS, fighting against extreme heat and smoke, the two men picked up Eddie and carried him down the stairs, feeling their way by rubbing their backs and elbows against the wall as they went; and

WHEREAS, once outside, Mr. Pipes and Mr. Dickens laid Eddie Grayson on the ground and propped up his head using Mr. Dickens's jacket as a pillow; they also offered comfort, support, and a warm coat to a shivering and scared Edward Rochner, Mr. Grayson's mentally handicapped foster brother; and

WHEREAS, James Dickens's courage and strength of character are clearly deserving of special recognition and praise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend James Dickens for his outstanding demonstration of courage, resourcefulness, and presence of mind, as we join with all the citizens of Tennessee in expressing our admiration and appreciation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our best wishes to Mr. Dickens for every success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.